

OFFICE OF KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
TOPEKA

Wayne Owens

December 5, 1959

I just got back from Kansas State Penitentiary where the boss and Roy sent me to interview a prisoner over there, who had something he wanted to get off his chest. I have told this story to the boss and he feels it is worth putting it on the belt and rushing on to you fellows.

Now the prisoner who told me this story worked for the CLUTTERS during 1948 and 1949. His name is Floyd WELLS, he is a white male, 32 years old, 5' 8", weighs 148 pounds, medium build and dark complexion.

His photo will be enclosed with details contained thereon, so that you can check and verify the fact that he did work for the CLUTTER'S. Although there is no doubt in my mind regarding that matter, by the way he said to mention to you that Vic and his brother Claud will remember me and he thinks that Vic and Claud are still probably there with the CLUTTER'S as they had worked there for a long time before he got there and they were pretty well rooted. Well so much for Mr. WELLS.

Now we will get to his story which begins on June 18, 1959 which was sometime after he was received at Lansing from Labette County for burglary and larceny.

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Wells ~~is~~ a cell mate to Richard HICKOCK, HICKOCK is 28 years old, 5' 10 1/2", weighs 150 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair. His description KSP and other ID numbers will be on his photo which will accompany this report. These two men spent long hours visiting with each other as most all cell mates do. During this conversation WELLS related how he enjoyed working in western Kansas and what wonderful people the CLUTTER'S were. He told HICKOCK about the CLUTTER'S financial standing and it wasn't long before he noticed his experiences with the CLUTTER'S greatly fascinated his cell mate. WELLS told HICKOCK that Mr. CLUTTER had a safe in the old house and that he always paid in cash way back there in 1949. WELLS also remembers telling HICKOCK that he saw Mr. CLUTTER pay a large lumber bill from this safe during construction as the new CLUTTER farm home neared completion in 1949 and that Mr. CLUTTER told him that he paid out more than \$10,000 in cash from the safe that one particular day.

Now HICKOCK did some talking too. HICKOCK told WELLS that he had a friend by the name of Perry Edward SMITH. He said that he and SMITH grew up together down in Labette County and that they were very close friends until SMITH went into the Navy and HICKOCK joined the Marines. After they got out of the Military Service they both got in the Kansas Penitentiary. SMITH was received at Lansing from Phillips County on March 14, 1956, he got 5-10 years on a burglary charge and 1-2 years for jail break. SMITH was paroled July 6, 1959 which was shortly after WELLS arrived at Lansing, consequently WELLS never knew SMITH but HICKOCK

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was always talking about SMITH and stated that when they got out they were going to get together and pull some jobs to get enough money to buy a boat. SMITH being a sailor and HICKOCK being a marine or visa versa they would use this boat for charter trips for deep sea fisherman and perhaps if they could make the proper contacts later they could engage in some illicit narcotic trade. Now Smith's photo is also enclosed and made a part of this report along with ID Numbers. ~~WELLS~~

C WELLS and HICKOCK continued to discuss western Kansas just as long as they were cell mates. WELLS says he realizes now that HICKOCK was really putting the pump handle to him but he just thought it was because HICKOCK stated he had spent quite a bit of time around Garden City and that he really would like to go back there and get a job when he got out of prison. WELLS told HICKOCK in detail about ~~what~~ the new CLUTTER house, location with reference to the Arkansas River and everything he knew about the family also, about there personal habits. WELLS remembers telling him that his last job for the CLUTTER'S was to go over to the new house and clean up scraps of wood, nails, sawdust and other debris making ready for the floor finishers, now this you will remember was back in 1949.

O HICKOCK and WELLS continued to be chummy until HICKOCK learned he was going to be ~~paroled~~ and it was at this time he told WELLS just as soon as he was released and got himself some transportation and got SMITH located so he could get SMITH to go along and help him cut the caper they were going to call on the CLUTTER'S and find out if he still had the \$10,000 in their dam safe. WELLS stated that he told HICKOCK that he didn't like this idea at all. He said the CLUTTER'S were good to him and he thought a lot of them and he didn't want to see them be robbed. He also told HICKOCK THAT he would just get caught and get back in the penitentiary again but HICKOCK insisted that he wouldn't and even went so far as to tell him how he was going to pull the job. Y He said if the old man wouldn't open the safe he would tie him up with some venitian blind cords as all houses have venitian blinds now days. He said he would torture him until he would open the safe, then he said he would kill them and everybody else that might be a witness.

HICKOCK told WELLS that to get this parole, and this is a matter of record, that he would have to make a pretense of doing some kind of work in Kansas City for awhile until he got SMITH located and made arrangements for his trip to western Kansas. He said that he could leave Kansas City, if he had the job in Kansas City, that he would be able to leave some Friday night and pull the job and get back to Kansas City and go to work Monday morning. Well looking over the notes that is about as much as WELLS told me in regard to his conversation with HICKOCK.

STATE OF KANSAS

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The only thing that remains is to get a location on SMITH and HICKOCK they are both are not where they are supposed to be. There is communication in SMITH'S file from Mr. Edward C. CUPIT of the inter-state patrol compact at Carson City, Nevada. This communication was dated in November 18, so probably he out there at Carson City, Nevada. As far as we know HICKOCK lives over to Edgerton, Kansas. Ed HAYS is his parole officer and he will probably know his exact location, anyway we will have this located if you think there is enough to this information to make it worth while. Well it will certainly be worth while and I'll guarantee they'll be located by the time you get this report.

C I want to mention in closing that the information from WELLS should be treated confidentially after all he is in the penitentiary and he is a little bit concerned about the word getting out on the inside of the fence ~~then~~ there. Now he says if it comes to a show down
O that he will be glad to make a witness and testify as to what HICKOCK told him in case HICKOCK is ever a defendant in any action that might be taken in regard to this case.

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WAYNE OWENS
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